

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-18 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, and 16-18 have been amended.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-7 are patentable over the combination of Kikinis (US 5,220,521) in view of Bowen (US 5,644,338), Kim (6,397,078) and Shaanen et al. (US 6,332,084, "Shaanen").

The combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen fails to disclose or suggest a flexible and compactable input means for receiving user input, wherein the flexible and compactable input means adopts a compacted spatial configuration in a first state and in a second state, and adopts an extended spatial configuration in a third state, wherein in the first state and in the second state the flexible and compactable input means has been retracted into the housing, as recited by claim 1.

The present invention provides an electronic input device having an input means extractable from a storage space of the device into an extended state, and retractable back into the storage space into a retracted or compacted state. As a result, the size of the electronic input device can be conveniently made smaller for transport while the input means is protected in the storage space. The electronic input device can later assume a larger size when the input means is to be used.

As presented in the application, the input means may be rolled or retracted into a housing and then pulled or rolled out for use. None of the references describe explicitly describe this type of input device. Kikinis is the only reference that describes a computer keyboard that may be rolled into a cylinder

for transport, however, Kikinis is limited to computer keyboards and there is no mention of putting the keypad into a housing in the mobile device as described in the present invention. At least for these reasons, the combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

Claims 1 has been amended to include that the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a pulling movement of a third housing portion of the electronic input device. The pulling movement more clearly describes the operation of the present invention where the input means is pulled or rolled out of the housing portion into which it has been rolled or compacted. The cited combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

The present invention is further distinguished from the references by the directions of the various movements. Assuming for arguments sake that Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen describe an electronic input device that has three different operational states, two of the three states are generally accomplished by a sliding movement of the keypad, and one of the states may be accomplished by moving the keypad to an opened state in a direction that is different from the sliding movement. For example, Kim discloses an integrated device that can be in a closed state, a partially opened state, and in a fully opened state. However, the movement in Kim is in the same plane.

The present invention is distinguished from the references because the corresponding movement in the present invention is in an orthogonal plane. Furthermore, the electronic input device of the present invention is configured to be moved from

the first state into the second state by an opening movement of a first housing portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second housing portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a pulling movement of a third housing portion of the electronic input device in relation to a fourth housing portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction. The combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

The Office Action states that Kikinis fails to teach that the input device is configured to be moved from the first state into the second state by movement of a first portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and that the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a sliding movement of a third portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction.

The Action then states that Bowen provides these features. Applicants respectfully disagree. Bowen only describes two states: open (Figure 1, column 6, line 16); and closed (Figure 4, column 7, lines 4-6), between which one moves by sliding or bending the keyboard. Bowen fails to describe a third state. Column 13, line 65 - column 14, line 4, cited by the examiner, does not describe a sliding or rolling movement from a second state to a third state as in the present invention, rather it describes the details of a fold mechanism as shown in Figures 31-37, including e.g., a pin sliding in a notch, as well as a

spring that holds the pin, which form a part of the locking mechanism by which the keyboard can be locked open or closed (column 10, lines 36-47).

It is not readily apparent which parts of Bowen would be the same as the first, second, and third portions of the present invention. Nevertheless, claim 1 now states that the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the first state into the second state by an opening movement of a first housing portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second housing portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a pulling movement of a third housing portion of the electronic input device in relation to a fourth housing portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction. None of the cited references describe or suggest these features.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's manner of extracting fragments of various patents and combining them because the manner of combining the references would not be obvious to one skilled in the art. Starting with the rollable computer keyboard of Kikinis, it would be unlikely for one skilled in the art to look to Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen which all have rigid keyboards in an attempt to construct Applicants' invention.

At least for these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and therefore are also patentable over the combination of cited art.

3. Claims 8-11 are patentable over the combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen, and further in view of Kinya et al. (JP 04-178684, hereinafter "Kinya").

Claims 8-11 depend from claim 1. Kinya discloses a flexible display medium that may be rolled up into a housing. However, Kinya fails to provide the features lacking in the combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen as argued above. Therefore, the combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, Shaanen, and Kinya fails to render claims 8-11 unpatentable.

4. Claims 12-15 are patentable over the combination of the combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, Shaanen, and Kinya, further in view of Furuya et al. (JP 06-164440, hereinafter "Furuya").

Furuya fails to disclose the features that are not disclosed or suggested by Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, Shaanen, and Kinya, listed above. Therefore, claims 12-15 are patentable over the combination of Kikinis, Bowen, Kim, Shaanen, Kinya, and Furuya.

5. Claims 16, 17, and 18 are patentable over the combination of Kinya, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen.

Claims 16, 17 and 18 are method claims related to an electronic input device with features similar to those of claim 1, and thus are patentable for the same reasons argued above in support of claim 1.

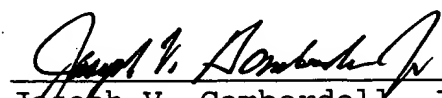
At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16, 17, and 18 are patentable over the combination of Kinya, Bowen, Kim, and Shaanen.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are

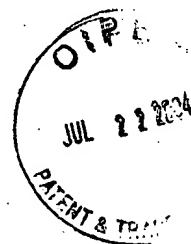
clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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